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Bernard Fox (actor)

Bernard Lawson (11 May 1927 – 14 December 2016), better known as **Bernard Fox**, was a Welsh actor. He is remembered for his roles as Dr. Bombay in the comedy fantasy series *Bewitched* (1964–1972) of which he was the last surviving adult cast member, Colonel Crittendon in the comedy series *Hogan's Heroes* (1965–1971), Malcolm Merriweather in *The Andy Griffith Show* (1963–1965), Colonel Redford in *Barnaby Jones* (1975), Max in *Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo* (1977), and Archibald Gracie IV in the film *Titanic* (1997).

Bernard Fox

Fox in *Hogan's Heroes* (1968)

Born	Bernard Lawson 11 May 1927 Port Talbot, Glamorgan, Wales, UK
Died	14 December 2016 (aged 89) Van Nuys, California, U.S.
Occupation	Actor
Years active	1955–2004
Spouse	Jacqueline Fox (m. 1962)
Children	2
Relatives	Wilfrid Lawson (uncle)

Early life

Fox was a fifth-generation performer.[1] He was born in Port Talbot, Glamorgan, the son of Queenie (née Barrett) and Gerald Lawson, both stage actors.[2][3] He had an older sister, Mavis, and his uncle was British actor Wilfrid Lawson.[4]

Career

Film

Fox began his film career at the age of 18 months, and by age 14 was an apprentice assistant manager of a theatre. After serving with the Royal Navy in World War II and the Korean War, he resumed his acting career and appeared in over 30 cinema films from 1956 to 2004, including two cinematic dramatizations of the sinking of the doomed passenger liner the RMS *Titanic*, separated by 39 years, viz, *Titanic* (1997) (as Colonel Archibald Gracie IV) and an earlier version of the tragedy *A Night to Remember* (1958) uncredited as lookout in the Crow's Nest Frederick Fleet, appearing very briefly in the film but the memorable line, "Iceberg, dead ahead sir!" as a lookout stationed in the ship's crow's nest. His other screen roles ranged from supporting parts in broad comedies (*Yellowbeard*, *Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo*, and *The Private Eyes*, playing a homicidal butler in the last) to supplying the voice of the Chairmouse in the Disney animated features *The Rescuers* and *The*

Rescuers Down Under. He played the role of Winston Havelock, a put-out-to-grass former Royal Flying Corps airman in the 1999 adventure film *The Mummy*. In 2004, Fox made his final appearance in *Surge of Power: The Stuff of Heroes*.

Television

In 1961 he played Malcolm in all 26 episodes in the comedy series *Three Live Wires*.[5]

Between 1967 and 1972, Fox portrayed the witch doctor Dr. Bombay on 18 episodes of the sitcom *Bewitched*. However, his first appearance on that show was not as Dr. Bombay, but as a professional witch debunker, Osgood Rightmire, in 1966. He reprised the role of Dr. Bombay on the 1977 sequel series *Tabitha*, and again in 1999 on the soap opera *Passions*, and spoofed it as a genie doctor ("wish doctor") in a 1989 episode of *Pee-wee's Playhouse*. Fox was the penultimate surviving adult recurring cast member of *Bewitched*, leaving Nancy Kovack (who portrayed character Darrin Stephens' ex-girlfriend Sheila throughout the series) and Bernie Kopell (who appeared as various characters in 9 episodes) as the only remaining adult cast members upon his death; child actors Erin Murphy and David Lawrence, who portrayed Darrin and Samantha's children (Tabitha and Adam) are still alive.

Between 1965 and 1970, Fox portrayed the bumbling "Colonel" Rodney Crittendon on eight episodes of *Hogan's Heroes* (Crittendon is a Royal Air Force group captain, and since the United States military has no "group captain" rank, Crittendon was referred to as "colonel," the equivalent American rank to avoid confusion for the show's US audience). He appeared in two episodes in the detective mystery series *Columbo*, "Dagger of the Mind" and "Troubled Waters". Fox also appeared as English valet Malcolm Meriweather in three episodes of *The Andy Griffith Show*, and in *Knight Rider* as Commander Smiths in season 2, episode 8.

Fox appeared as a British Major in "The Phantom Major", episode 3 of *F Troop*, and in "Tea and Empathy", episode 18 of season 6 of *M*A*S*H*. In 1964, Fox appeared in episode 117 of *The Dick Van Dyke Show*, titled "Girls Will Be Boys". Fox plays the father of a little girl who keeps beating up Richie Petrie. He also appeared in "Teacher's Petrie", where he played a night school creative writing teacher, and in "Never Bathe on Saturday" as the house detective. In 1965 Fox made a guest appearance on *Perry Mason* as Peter Stange in "The Case of the Laughing Lady".

Fox also appeared in *McHale's Navy*; in *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* ("The Thor Affair" episode as munitions magnate Brutus Thor, intent on assassinating a "Gandhi-like" figure who's attempting to bring world peace (1966) as well as in the two-part episode "The Bridge of Lions Affair" in 1966, wherein he starred as THRUSH agent Jordin, whose constant response to each additional assignment is "I'll look into it"); and in the *Murder, She Wrote* episode "One White Rose for Death" in 1986. In addition, he co-starred with Michael Evans as Dr. Watson in *Sherlock & Me* in the early 1980s.

Personal life

Fox and his wife had two daughters, Amanda and Valerie.[6]

Death

On the morning of 14 December 2016, Fox died of heart failure at Valley Presbyterian Hospital in Van Nuys, California.[7] He was 89 years old.[8]

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1956	*Soho Incident*	McLeod	
1956	*Home and Away*	Johnnie Knowles	
1956	*The Counterfeit Plan*	Detective Sergeant	
1957	*Scotland Yard* film series	Sergeant Conway	Inside Information
1957	*Blue Murder at St. Trinian's*	Photographer	Uncredited
1958	*The Safecracker*	Shafter	
1958	*A Night to Remember*	Lookout Frederick Fleet	Uncredited
1958	*The Two-Headed Spy*	Lieutenant	
1959	*Captured*	Morrison	Uncredited
1962	*The Longest Day*	Pvt. Hutchinson	Uncredited
1963	*The List of Adrian Messenger*	Lynch	Uncredited
1964	*Honeymoon Hotel*	Room Clerk	
1964	*Quick, Before It Melts*	Leslie Folliott	
1965	*Strange Bedfellows*	Policeman	
1966	*Munster, Go Home!*	Squire Lester Moresby	
1966	*Hold On!*	Dudley Hawks	
1966	*One of Our Spies Is Missing*	Jordin	
1968	*Star!*	Asst. to Lord Chamberlain	Uncredited
1968	*The Bamboo Saucer*	Ephram	
1971	*Big Jake*	Scottish Shepherd	Uncredited
1971	*The Million Dollar Duck*	Car Salesman	Uncredited
1973	*Arnold*	Constable Hooke	
1977	*The Rescuers*	The Chairman	Voice
1977	*Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo*	Max	
1978	*The House of the Dead*	Inspector McDowal	
1980	*The Private Eyes*	Justin	
1980	*Gauguin the Savage*	Captain Chablat	
1983	*Yellowbeard*	Tarbuck	
1988	*18 Again!*	Horton	

1990	*The Rescuers Down Under*	Chairman / Doctor	Voice
1997	*Titanic*	Col. Archibald Gracie	
1999	*The Mummy*	Capt. Winston Havelock	
2004	*Surge of Power: The Stuff of Heroes*	Himself	Final film role

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes
1955–1956	*Sixpenny Corner*	Tom Norton	10 episodes
1957	*Wire Service*	Naval Officer	Episode: "Atom at Spithead"
1958	*Victory*	Performer	TV movie
1959	*Dixon of Dock Green*	Smiler Hodges	Episode: "A Case for the Inland Revenue"
1959	*The Golden Spur*	Soldier at Inn	Episode: #1.3
1959	*ITV Television Playhouse*	Morton Leslie	Episode: "Ticket for Tomorrow"
1960	*No Hiding Place*	Insp. Brighouse	Episode: "The Golden Crown"
1960	*The Love of Mike*	Malcolm Danders	2 episodes
1960	*ITV Play of the Week*	Captain Scott	Episode: "Beyond the Horizon"
1961	*Armchair Theatre*	Barman	Episode: "Honeymoon Postponed"
1961	*Three Live Wires*	Malcolm	26 episodes
1963	*Ensign O'Toole*	Hastings	Episode: "Operation – Intrigue"
1963	*The Great Adventure*	Redcoat Lt.	Episode: "A Boy at War"
1962–1963	*The Danny Thomas Show*	Alfie Wingate	4 episodes
1963–1965	*The Andy Griffith Show*	Malcolm Merriweather	3 episodes
1964	*McHale's Navy*	Sub-Lieutenant Clivedon	Episode: "The British Also Have Ensigns"
1964–1965	*The Dick Van Dyke Show*	Various Roles	3 episodes
1964–1966	*Twelve O'Clock High*	Sgt. Major Higgins / Maj. Dutton / Colonel Charles	3 episodes
1965	*Perry Mason*	Peter Stange	Episode: "The Case of the Laughing Lady"
1965	*F-Troop*	Major Bently Royce	Episode: "The Phantom Major"
1965	*The Flintstones*	Eppy Brianstone	Voice, Episode: "No Biz Like Show Biz"
1965	*I Spy*	Harold	Episode: "Carry Me Back to Old Tsing-Tao"
1965–1970	*Hogan's Heroes*	Col. Crittendon	8 episodes

1966	*I Dream of Jeannie*	Arnie	Episode: "Is There an Extra Jeannie in the House?"
1966	*The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*	Jordin / Brutus Thor	3 episodes
1966–1972	*Bewitched*	Dr. Bombay	19 episodes
1968	*The Monkees*	Sir Twiggly	Episode: "Monkees Mind Their Manor"
1969	*Daniel Boone*	Carruthers	Episode: "A Bearskin for Jamie Blue"
1969	*Here Come the Brides*	Father Ned	Episode: "The Wealthiest Man in Seattle"
1971	*Night Gallery*	Mr. Canby / Ghost	Segment: "House with Ghost"
1971–1973	*Love, American Style*	Jocko / Oliver / Marshall	3 episodes
1972	*The Hound of the Baskervilles*	Dr. Watson	TV movie
1972	*Columbo*	Det. Chief William Durk	Episode: "Dagger of the Mind"
1973	*Intertect*	Barrett	TV movie
1975	*Columbo*	Purser Watkins	Episode: "Troubled Waters"
1975	*Cannon*	Allen Farrell	Episode: "The Victim"
1975	*Emergency!*	Mr. Kern	2 episodes
1978	*Soap*	Randolph Gatling	Episode: #1.5
1977–1978	*Tabitha*	Dr. Bombay	2 episodes
1978	*M*A*S*H*	Major Ross	Episode: "Tea and Empathy"
1978	*What's Happening!!*	Britisher	Episode: "Diplomatic Immunity"
1979	*Fantasy Island*	Brian Lipscomb	Episode: "Amusement Park/Rock Stars"
1980	*The Dukes of Hazzard*	Higgins the Butler	Episode: "Southern Comfurts"
1981	*Scooby-Doo and Scrappy-Doo*		Voice
1980	*Lou Grant*	Clive Whitcomb	Episode: "Libel"
1981	*The Love Boat*	Henry Whitewood	Season 5 – Episode 10
1982	*Hart to Hart*	Nigel Hegland	Episode: "Million Dollar Harts"
1982	*The Jeffersons*	Andrew Derek	2 episodes
1983	*Gun Shy*	Sir Charles W.R.	Episode: "Western Velvet"
1983	*Knight Rider*	Comm. Smythe	Episode: "Custom K.I.T.T."
1984	*Hotel*	Adam Partridge	Episode: "Ideals"
1984	*Simon & Simon*	Rupert Ginnias	Episode: "Revolution 9 1/2"
1985	*The Fall Guy*	Santa	Episode: "Escape Claus"
1986	*Riptide*	Prof. Holcombe	Episode: "The Play's the Thing"

1986	*Murder, She Wrote*	Andrew Wyckham	Episode: "One White Rose for Death"
1988	*Punky Brewster*	Whitmore	Episode: "Aunt Larnese Is Coming to Town"
1989	*Pee-wee's Playhouse*	Dr. Jinga-Janga	Episode: "Sick? Did Somebody Say Sick?"
1990	*Chip 'n Dale: Rescue Rangers*	Professor, Radio Voice, Jewelry Store Owner	Voice, Episode: "Gorilla My Dreams"
1999–2000	*Passions*	Dr. Bombay	3 episodes
2001	*Dharma & Greg*	Henry Cooper	Episode: "Without Reservations"
2003	*Time Squad*	Sir Henry Morton Stanley	Voice, Episode: "Out with the In Crowd"

Awards and nominations

Year	Award	Category	Title	Result
1997	Screen Actors Guild	Outstanding Cast in a Motion Picture	*Titanic*	Nominated

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3. "Bernard Fox Makes Fans Merry!" (http://www.bewitched.net/bernbck.htm). Bewitched.net. Retrieved 2011-07-09.
4. Erickson, Hal. Biography (https://www.allmovie.com/artist/bernard-fox-p24538) *AllMovie*. Retrieved 3 December 2020.
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7. Barnes, Mike (14 December 2016). "Bernard Fox, Who Played Dr. Bombay on 'Bewitched,' Dies at 89" (http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/bernard-fox-dead-bewitched-actor-who-played-dr-bombay-was-89-956294). *The Hollywood Reporter*. Retrieved 3 December 2020.
8. "Bernard Fox, Film and TV Star of BEWITCHED, TITANIC, THE MUMMY and More, Passes Away" (https://web.archive.org/web/20161231094433/http://www.broadwayworld.com/bwwtv/article/Bernard-Fox-Film-and-TV-Star-of-BEWITCHED-TITANIC-THE-MUMMY-and-More-Passes-Away-20161214). *Broadway World*. Archived from the original (http://www.broadway

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External links

- Bernard Fox (https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0288882/) at IMDb
- Bernard Fox (https://www.tcm.com/tcmdb/person/64667%7C19360/Bernard-Fox#overview) at Turner Classic Movies
- Bernard Fox (https://www.allmovie.com/artist/p24538) at AllMovie
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